

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE eBCD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP  
(eBCD TWG)  
(Online, 6-7 April 2022)**

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Manel, welcomed all the attendees and the meeting was opened by the Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG, the “Group”), Mr. Neil Ansell.

## **2. Nomination of Rapporteur**

The Chair of the eBCD TWG requested a volunteer to act as rapporteur, and a member of the Secretariat agreed take on this responsibility.

## **3. Adoption of the agenda**

The Chair briefly outlined the agenda and asked CPCs to present any matters to be included; all CPCs agreed with the order and content of this document.

The agenda was adopted and is contained in **Appendix 1**.

The list of participants is contained in **Appendix 2**.

## **4. System overall state of play**

### ***4.1 Annual Report of User Support Service***

Tragsa presented their report, noting the statistics on the processing of requests and incidents from eBCD users in 2022. They informed that further information was available in the graphs and tables in points 1.1 and 1.2 of the Tragsa report, which is contained in **Appendix 3**.

## **5. Review/progress of system developments previously agreed**

### ***5.1 Issues developed and updated in Production Environment***

#### *5.1.1 Reference 2019-4b: Print functions: Other presentations*

Include in the print version of the eBCD the subtypes products presentations included in ‘Other’. This functionality was uploaded to the eBCD System in November 2021.

#### *5.1.2 JFO synchronization*

Include JFO data as part of the records to be synchronized. Already done for vessels, farms, traps and ports. This functionality was uploaded to the eBCD System in March 2022.

#### *5.1.3 Parallel transfers from live trade; Adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades*

Modified so that in live parallel operations and transfers, the system checks traceability correctly. This functionality was uploaded to the eBCD System in November 2021.

#### *5.1.4 Improved messages from the eBCD system to the user*

Modification of some messages in the system such as: incorrect credential message, duplicate session message, permission expiry message, and I "Forgot my password" option were changed. This was updated under the maintenance allotment. These improved messages were uploaded to the eBCD system in November 2021.

### **5.2 Issues cost estimated but not requested**

#### *5.2.1 Reference 2019-8 (35): Trades companies of other countries adapt the system to allow access to NCP*

Creation of the different profiles for non-CPC countries, for accessing the system. Requirements were sent on 31 March 2019.

Final Decision: To keep it open for more discussion by the eBCD TWG.

#### *5.2.2 Campaign setup using a form*

Creation of a form in the system to be able to configure each fishing campaign for users with an ICCAT Secretariat profile. Requirements were sent on 31 March 2022.

Final Decision: Approved for Developments under Flexible Allotment for the Time/Cost estimate provided by Tragsa.

#### *5.2.3 BCDs search*

Improve the search mode for more than one eBCD, because if the system works quickly for one eBCD, it is more difficult to search for more than one eBCD. Requirements were sent on 31 March 2022.

Final Decision: Approved for developments under flexible allotment for the time/cost estimate provided by Tragsa.

#### *5.2.4 Include a "start date" in role's permissions*

This proposal considers the possibility of being able to assign a start date in permissions to users of certain profiles in order to limit their access to historical information for confidentiality reasons. Requirements were sent on 31 March 2022.

Tragsa explained that, during the analysis of this development, they realized that this functionality could undermine the operability of the system and add confusion to its use: users to whom an initial date was added would not be able to access a significant part of the historical information recorded before that date in the system and on many occasions would probably not be able to determine the reason why.

The EU asked whether this start date would be mandatory and whether it would be possible to warn the user in some way, in the form of a message or alert, when he/she is looking for information prior to the start date.

Tragsa indicated that this initial date would not be obligatory for users, but once established, it would not be able to create an alert to warn the user of information that cannot be accessed, as this consultation depends on many conditions within the system.

The United States pointed out that the cost of this development is too high for the trade-offs involved and expressed some doubts as to its benefits in terms of confidentiality. They asked whether the start date will be limited to some profiles or apply to all, and Tragsa informed the Group that the start data would apply to all user profiles.

The eBCD TWG Chair proposed that Tunisia, which was the CPC that initiated this proposal, present its views on the proposal in order to assess whether it should be developed.

Tunisia stated that the origin of the proposal was due to the fact that they considered that retroactive access to data in the system is a breach of confidentiality (it clarified that the proposal was limited to non-governmental profiles that handle vessel and farm entities). They agreed that, given that the proposal involves a huge development and a very complex adaptation of the system, they would withdraw the request.

In light of this, and due to the high development costs and the complexity of the development, the eBCD TWG considers the proposal withdrawn.

Final decision: Not approved.

### **5.3 Issues pending a decision of IMM**

#### *5.3.1 Include transshipments linked with eBCD*

Paragraph 92 of Rec. 21-08 establishes that a transshipment declaration shall be linked to an eBCD to facilitate data cross-checking. The option of including a functionality that will allow uploading documents in the transshipment section was again discussed. The eBCD TWG however considered that the simplest approach, which would not require any system development, would be for users to include the Transshipment Declaration Number in the eBCD notes field. The Group felt that this issue should be deferred to the meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), in particular whether this suggestion would meet the requirements as laid down in the Recommendation.

Final decision: Open, more discussion by the eBCD TWG needed, and deferred to IMM.

### **5.4 Other issues considered "open" in June 2021**

#### *5.4.1 Develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS*

The Chair noted that previous eBCD TWG meetings have discussed the issue of how inspectors operating in the context of Joint International Inspection Schemes under Recs. 21-08 and 16-05 would have access to BCDs, both in the context of risk assessment and for the vessels they are inspecting. Different technical approaches had been discussed in depth by the eBCD TWG taking into account system integrity, data confidentiality and the operational specificities of accessing the system in the field.

The United States considered that these technical options should be given high priority for discussion by IMM in order that further progress can be made on this issue.

Following agreement by the eBCD TWG, the Chair emphasized that he will make it clear in his report to the IMM that this issue should be treated as a priority. Tragsa was requested to draft the features of the necessary development following further discussion in IMM and taking into account the questions in **Appendix 4**.

Final decision: Open, more discussion by the eBCD TWG and deferred to IMM with high priority.

#### *5.4.2 Cross-checks the total catches average weight and the samplings average weight*

It was noted that the eBCD system does not cross-check between the average weight of the total catches and the average weight of the samplings. The possibility of reporting to the administrators when these figures exceed a certain % tolerance was discussed.

The United States doubted whether it should be referred to the IMM given the technical nature of the proposal. The proposal aims to consider the possibility that the eBCD system would allow the monitoring of the tagging of small fish in order to ensure compliance with the relevant provision.

Tunisia stressed that this development will not replace the current work of the SCRS as there is already existing sampling work that monitors these data. Cross-checking in the eBCD system may make its operativity more complex and they consider that there is no real demand for such cross-checks to be carried out in the system.

The United States, with respect to Tunisia's comments, pointed out that this sampling by the system would not be for scientific purposes but would be useful to check compliance with the Recommendation under which this exception is invoked.

The EU stated that both the need for and the cost of this development would have to be assessed considering that the number of samples concerned is small and that this derogation is only limited to the EU Member States.

The United States believed that this proposal should be left open for further discussion within the IMM.

Final decision: Keep this issue open for further discussion within the IMM and, if needed, the next eBCD TWG.

### **5.5 Issues discussed in previous meetings of the eBCD TWG which are still pending**

#### *5.5.1 Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections*

Inclusion in the eBCD system of 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections was discussed (i.e., 'gutted and gilled' cannot be followed by 'whole'). The functionality was uploaded to the system in December 2018, however, it awaits upload of the 'plausible' cases considered by CPCs. It was decided at the last meeting of the eBCD TWG that a document would be drafted and shared among the participating CPCs in order to agree on these transformations.

The United States reminded that although this development was useful, it was not considered a priority. They requested further guidance from other CPCs on all the plausible transformation combinations and the level of cross checking that is expected from the system. They suggested that this development could be approached in two phases: a first phase with broader agreement of what CPCs would like the system to do and a second phase with the inclusion of plausible/non-plausible transformations.

Tunisia believed that it would be very appropriate for the system to allow a chronology of the transformation of products in order to avoid any fraudulent operations.

Canada asked whether, when the system finds an incorrect transformation, it will block the section or only display an alert (inconsistency).

The EU considered that it would be more appropriate for the system to alert on non-plausible transformations.

Tunisia reminded that the aim of this proposal is that the system should only allow plausible transformations and the technical analysis needed to be precise to avoid the system from blocking legitimate transformations.

The United States requested that for the future there should be a list of possible products and their codes as a "Tool-tips" guide.

The eBCD TWG Chair solicited a volunteer for an initial draft of plausible transformations. The United States proposed that a small group of CPCs could start drafting a document with all possible transformations, which they would then share over the coming months.

Final decision: Open, more discussion by the eBCD TWG is needed; the United States will draft a document of plausible transformations and circulate.

#### *5.5.2 When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches*

The possibility of displaying alerts only in the relevant branches was discussed. Depending on the inconsistencies, the alerts are displayed in one section or in the whole eBCD.

Regarding this proposal, Tragsa explained that there are two types of inconsistencies in the system: those that affect the entire eBCD or those that affect a single section. Among those that affect the whole eBCD there are only two and they are the ones that have been discussed as affecting only one branch of the eBCD. The problem is that it would not be possible to delimit these two inconsistencies, as currently implemented in the system, to a single branch.

Moreover, since an update was made to the system in 2018 to deal with fresh and frozen products (which prevented recording a certain number of fish or quantity of fish (kg) if it was not available in the previous section), the two alerts discussed have drastically decreased their presence in the system. As a result, this issue affects a much smaller number of eBCDs.

If it is still considered appropriate to change these inconsistencies at branch level, it would have to be reconsidered to which section the inconsistency should be applied. Tragsa shared the screen to show that in the current inconsistency document, the two affected inconsistencies have no associated eBCD section.

Final decision: To be kept open and would be mostly limited to pre-2018. Nothing to be done for the moment. Leave it open for the future.

#### *5.5.3 Transport area within TD section to be mandatory and include dates of departure and arrival*

In the previous eBCD TWG meetings it was discussed to use the transport area in the TD section to include more information related to the transport used.

Tragsa stated that currently, in the transport area of the TD section, a document can be included, and the proposal was to introduce more data. They have checked and informed that it would be possible to include more data if necessary. But they have the following doubts:

- Which fields should be included?
- What type of profile would be responsible for filling in this information?
- Would these fields be editable in the following cases? TD exempted/TD validated/TD signed by importer?
- If the fields were editable, what type of profile would be able to modify them?
- If the fields were editable and the TD was validated, would the changes have to be audited?
- Do these fields need to be included in the printed version?

The EU replied that, with regard to the required fields, the current EU transport document could be used as a model. Also, it has to be considered that sometimes the transport information changes during the transport operation itself. The EU felt this information to be important as it allows traceability within the transport phase which is currently very difficult to obtain from the eBCD system.

The United States understood that this development would mean making this new transport data mandatory in the system and in this regard, as in an earlier discussion, it was pointed out that this information might not provide added value in terms of traceability. So perhaps the designation of this information as mandatory is beyond the competencies of this Group.

Turkey had previously objected to this as it would cause logistical difficulties. Turkey was not present at the Meeting of the eBCD TWG.

Final decision: Open, to be deferred to IMM.

#### *5.5.4 Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD*

At previous eBCD TWG meetings a proposal was made to include the weight and number of fish results from the stereoscopic camera control in the "Caging" Section of the printed eBCD.

Morocco explained that this proposal was made because in Section 6 of the "fattening information", the stereoscopic cameras data appear only in the eBCD system but not in the printed version (the printed version is understood to refer to the printed PDF version exported from the system).

The United States questioned in which cases the paper version of the eBCD would be used, given that the cases in Rec. 20-08 where paper eBCDs may be used are very limited.

Morocco specified that, for example, this may happen if an inspector, while conducting inspections on a farm, does not have access to the electronic version, only to the printed version.

The United States reiterated that the paper eBCD can only be used in certain circumstances and is concerned that it may continue to be used extensively.

Morocco clarified that the proposal refers to the printed version of the eBCD which may be used in certain cases (e.g., when the Internet is not available) only for verification needs and not to a paper BCD and therefore was not related to the cases laid down in para 6 of Rec. 20-08.

Tragsa assured that this development is feasible and shared on screen a preliminary design of how the printed eBCD would look with the new field.

Tunisia believed that this proposal may be useful and wondered what would happen to the printed eBCDs in cases where the data affected by the proposal are modified in the different sections in which they appear.

Tragsa, in response to Tunisia, responded that when the data are printed, the data that exist at that moment in the system are shown, and if they have been previously modified, the most updated version will be printed.

The United States continued to see discrepancies in what is understood by the use of the printed version of eBCD and considered this is an issue that should be addressed by the IMM.

Final decision: Deferred to IMM.

#### *5.5.5 Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO*

In line with para 197 of Rec. 21-08, discussions took place on how this would be done and how traceability could be ensured.

Final decision: Open, more discussion by eBCD TWG needed, deferred to IMM. Both full analysis of the implications for traceability and time-cost estimates to be requested as well.

#### *5.5.6 Mortality during towing voyage*

Mortality during the towing voyage was discussed under "Treatment of dead and/or lost fish / Treatment of fish that die during first transfer" of Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08 (see Section 6.23). It was concluded that this issue would need a more in-depth analysis. A cost/time analysis and full analysis of implications are requested.

Final decision: Open, for more discussion by the eBCD TWG needed based on what TRAGSA would propose, also deferred to IMM.

### **5.6 New issues**

#### *5.6.1 Asynchronous reports*

The eBCD Support Team has received several issues from different users of administrator profiles, due to the difficulty they have encountered in obtaining the "Flags raw data" and "eBCD raw data" reports.

Due to the large amount of data that the system has for these flags, even for time slots of several months, a timeout error occurs due to the length of time that the system needs to extract the query in the database.

The proposal is to perform this procedure asynchronously. Therefore, the user will make the request and once generated, the report will be displayed on another page of the eBCD system, created for this purpose.

Final decision: Approved for development based on the time/cost estimate provided by Tragsa.

## 6. Consideration of new developments required by conservation and management measures adopted in 2021

Tragsa stated that they would need more time to be able to analyse the different measures and their impact on the eBCD system.

### 6.1 Paragraph 26 of Rec. 21-08: Farming capacity

26	Farming capacity	The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. <i>The eBCD TWG shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.</i>
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The Secretariat requested CPCs to determine the details and format of the information referred to in this paragraph. Similarly, it is also necessary to know the degree of confidentiality with which this information should be treated.

Morocco noted that the reports currently produced by the eBCD system contain the data specified in this paragraph. Therefore, further development may not be necessary.

The EU stated that they find it difficult to generate the reports Morocco has indicated. The Secretariat, which should extract data from all CPCs, would encounter the same impediments in this regard and that functionality should be developed to facilitate this task.

The Secretariat confirmed that it is aware of these difficulties and will engage in communication with Tragsa to find a solution. It again stressed the need for CPCs to provide the format and fields required for this information, including any limitations on data confidentiality.

The EU, in terms of format, suggested that data should be aggregated.

Japan, as proponent of this paragraph, stated that it does not need specific and detailed data on farming activity, caging, export/import. Final aggregated data on tuna farming by CPCs would suffice and hence not create data confidentiality concerns. Japan suggested that these data should be published on the ICCAT website.

The United States agreed with Japan that this information is a statistical package in an aggregated format which could be published on the ICCAT website without the need for password protection. It also noted that, ideally, a simplified way of extracting these data should be found.

Tragsa confirmed that a simplification of the extraction of these data, as proposed by the United States, would be possible but would require further development.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that further collaboration between the Secretariat and Tragsa could be fruitful in the approach to this new development.

Final decision: Time/cost analysis of options to be requested.

### 6.2 Paragraph 27 of Rec. 21-08: Growth rates

27	Growth rates	Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that <i>the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.</i>
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The United States considered that farming CPCs should determine the usefulness of being able to obtain growth rates from the eBCD system together with the consideration that this functionality should be open to the rest of the CPCs without farms.

The EU emphasized that it would be necessary to know what the objective and scope are to be achieved by the SCRS with regard to the study of these growth rates in order to assess whether it is relevant to develop this functionality in the eBCD system.

Japan referred to the working document “Revised proposal on growth rate observed in bluefin tuna farmed in Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, which sets out its proposal to achieve a consistent approach in growth rate analyses as laid down by para 27 of Rec. 21-08. They proposed that a functionality be developed in the eBCD system to allow this automatic calculation of growth rates. That said, they noted that this development would not be a priority in the short-term, however, should be further considered by the eBCD TWG.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that further technical discussions were needed and the eBCD TWG would need guidance from IMM on the priority of this item.

Final decision: Deferred to IMM.

**6.3 Paragraph 88 of Rec. 21-08: Cross check**

88	Cross check	<i>CPCs shall verify</i> inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and <i>where appropriate eBCDs</i> , as well as the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.
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Final Decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.4 Paragraph 92 of Rec. 21-08: Transshipment**

92	Transshipment	The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per <i>Recommendation 21-15</i> . The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment <i>declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3</i> . <i>The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.</i>
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The United States recalled that in the earlier debate the possibility of adding the documentation was also discussed but it was finally concluded to include in the eBCD the code number of the transshipment declaration (which would be filled in a free text box). The United States also raised the possibility that the link could be established in both directions via a new field in the eBCD System containing the declaration numbering.

The EU showed a preference for linking through the inclusion of the eBCD number in the transshipment declaration. The EU does not oppose the idea suggested by the United State of double linking as long as the need for it is assessed and what it would entail.

Tragsa explained that the “observations” field can be used in the corresponding section; but this solution implies that these data could not be easily cross-referenced in reports with other information afterwards. If a new field was needed to collect these data, this would involve a development of the field.

Morocco noted that it was proposed that the link would be to include the eBCD number in the transshipment declaration, but currently the transshipment declaration forms have not yet been amended for this purpose and therefore it would not be possible to do so.

Japan added that at the IMM meeting it was agreed that the eBCD number should be added to the transshipment declaration; however, some CPCs requested time to further consider how to make the link. Japan also noted that the transshipment declaration form currently in use does not have a numerical identifier to cross-reference and this would be another issue for the IMM to address.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that this matter should be deferred to IMM.

Final decision: Deferred to IMM.

**6.5 Paragraph 102 of Rec. 21-08: ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)**

102	ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)	By way of derogation from paragraph 101, harvesting from farms up to 1000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. <i>The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required in the harvest section of the eBCD. This derogation shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the PWG, possibly through its IMM Working Group, by 2023 at the latest.</i>
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The EU emphasized the importance of the new functionality not blocking the harvesting section as currently the signature of a Regional Observer is required, and the new Recommendation would only allow the assistance of a National Inspector in the cases covered by this derogation.

Tragsa confirmed the EU's statement that it will be necessary to re-analyse the behaviour of the harvesting section to take into account these derogations.

The United States raised concerns regarding treatment in the eBCD system for those CPCs that do not wish to adhere to the derogation. One approach would be that by default all CPCs would be able to apply this derogation when the conditions are met, and another is that the system would be explicitly configured only for those CPCs which have chosen to apply the derogation.

Morocco stressed that the new functionality must take into account the numbers and quantities that allow for the derogation and indicated its preference for reusing the current harvesting section by adding a 'checkbox' that when clicked specifies that the Harvesting will be carried out under the conditions of the exception.

The EU agreed with the solution of the 'checkbox' as outlined by Morocco and wondered whether it would be possible for the eBCD system to automatically detect whether the farm meets the conditions for this derogation to prevent its misuse.

Tunisia pointed to the possibility of creating a separate harvesting section that would differentiate it from the current one and, when added, would avoid the role of Regional Observers and take up the specific characteristics as set out in the provision.

Tragsa explained that currently, when the "Natural Death" box is clicked, the "Harvesting" Section does not have to be validated by a Regional Observer as in the proposal of Morocco. It also confirmed, as noted by the United States, that it was necessary to define how to deal in the system with those CPCs that do not wish to apply the derogation.

Tragsa warned that although visually the potential solution would only be to add a checkbox to the form, internally the processes to be modified and, hence, the scale of the development, would be considerable.

The United States pointed out that another issue to consider is the responsible authority that has to act according to this paragraph, as it would be an inspection delegated by the National Authorities that should physically perform its activity on the farms. The United States felt that this has to be taken into account when the system makes the validation request and determines which validating users can perform this task. The nature of these inspectors would therefore need to be determined and if needed, added to the system.

Tunisia noted that the paragraph states that this derogation will be reviewed between now and 2023; so if it is modified or repealed, any development may be in vain.

Final decision: Time/cost analysis to be requested outlining the options available.

**6.6 Paragraph 126 of Rec. 21-08: Voluntary and control transfers**

126	Voluntary and Control Transfers	The voluntary and/or control transfer(s) shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty. <i>The number of fish obtained from the valid voluntary or control transfer shall be used to complete the logbook, the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and the relevant sections of the eBCD.</i>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.7 Paragraph 138 of Rec. 21-08: Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations**

138	Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations	If following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different <i>to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation.</i>
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The EU in this case understood that the donor operator is the fishing vessel or trap, but that in subsequent transfers it would be the towing vessel and it would have to be seen whether this implies that the CPC/flag responsible for the towing vessel should have the possibility to modify the eBCD.

Tunisia noted that the definition of donor operator refers to the Master of the catching vessel, towing vessel or trap, and therefore towing vessel should be included in the definition.

Tragsa explained that in the case of the “Transfers” Section, the profiles that can edit it can be both the seller of the live trade and the buyer, therefore both flags can make the modification. However, if these data have to be modified in the “Live Trade” Section or in the capture, only the administrators of the flag responsible for the capture can carry out this operation.

The eBCD TWG Chair, based on Tragsa’s explanation, considered that the system may need to be modified to allow the donor flag to modify the data in those sections involved by the paragraph.

Morocco remarked that these would be modifications to be made after an investigation or an at-sea inspection in those cases where the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared by the donor operator. Therefore, what this paragraph intends to establish is that it is the competent authority that is responsible for making these modifications and that in this case it is the competent authority of the donor operator. As this rule now applies to all types of transfers, different donor operators are concerned, according to the type of transfer, the issue under discussion would therefore have to be reviewed within Panel 2 / the IMM Working Group. Nonetheless, in any case the eBCD TWG felt it would be the flag to which the quota belongs that would have to make the modification.

The EU agreed with Morocco that this issue will require further discussion with Panel 2 / IMM as there may be implications that cannot be defined at this meeting.

The eBCD TWG Chair, in the light of this discussion, considered that it is for IMM to note and forward to Panel 2 as appropriate.

Final decision: Deferred to IMM and further discussion within Panel 2 if needed.

**6.8 Paragraph 143 of Rec. 21-08: Caging/General provisions**

143	Caging/General provisions	All CPCs involved in caging related activities shall exchange information and cooperate to ensure that <i>the number and weight of bluefin tuna intended for caging are accurate, consistent with the catch amounts reported by the purse seine vessel or trap and declared in the relevant sections of the eBCD.</i>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.9 Paragraph 151 of Rec. 21-08: Caging authorization**

151	Caging authorization	Each caging operation is subject to a caging authorization issued by the farm CPC competent authority. The following procedure shall apply: a) the farm operator requests a caging authorization to the farm CPC competent authority, specifying in particular the number and weight (as referred to in the ITD) of fish to be caged. This request shall be accompanied by: i) the relevant ITDs; ii) <i>the eBCD(s) reference concerned, as confirmed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority</i> ; iii) all the reports of fish that die during transport, duly recorded in accordance with Annex 11.
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD System.

**6.10 Paragraph 153 of Rec. 21-08: Caging authorization**

153	Caging authorization	Pending the results of the investigation referred to in paragraphs 134 to 137 conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority, the caging operation shall not be authorized and the relevant catch and <i>live trade sections of the eBCD shall not be validated.</i>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.11 Paragraph 157 of Rec. 21-08: Caging operations**

157	Caging operations	No caging operation shall start: a) .., b) ... and, c) before the catch <i>and live trade sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated</i> by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority(ies).
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.12 Paragraph 174 of Rec. 21-08: Caging/Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority**

174	Caging/Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority	When, for a single catching operation, the number of bluefin tuna being caged as communicated by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 172, <i>differs by 10% or more from those reported in the ITD or eBCD as caught and/or transferred</i> , the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall initiate an investigation to determine the accurate catch weight that shall be deducted from the national bluefin tuna quota, in accordance with paragraphs 180 to 182 (quota uptake).
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.13 Paragraph 188 of Rec. 21-08: Harvesting**

188	Harvesting	Any harvesting operation in farms or traps shall be subject to an authorisation by the farm or trap CPC competent authority. To this end, the farm or trap operator intending to harvest bluefin tuna shall submit to its CPC competent authority a request, which shall include at least the following information: - date or period of harvesting; - estimated quantities to be harvested in number of individuals and kg; - <i>eBCD number associated with the bluefin tuna to be harvested</i> ; - .....
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.14 Paragraph 193 of Rec. 21-08: Harvesting**

193	Harvesting	<p>The processing declaration and harvesting declaration shall contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- date of harvesting;</li> <li>- farm or trap;</li> <li>- cage(s) number(s);</li> <li>- number of individuals harvested;</li> <li>- live weight and processed weight in Kg of the harvested bluefin tuna;</li> <li>- <i>eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested;</i></li> </ul>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.15 Paragraph 193 of Rec. 21-08: Control activities in farms after caging / Intra-farm transfers**

195	Control activities in farms after caging / Intra-farm transfers	<p>Intra-farm transfer shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm CPC competent authority. Each transfer shall be recorded by control cameras to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred. The video footage shall comply with the minimum standards as laid down in Annex 8. The farm CPC competent authority shall monitor and control those transfers, including ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is <i>recorded in the eBCD system.</i></p>
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Final Decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD System.

**6.16 Paragraph 197 of Rec. 21-08: Control activities in farms after caging / Intra-farm transfers**

197	Control activities in farms after caging / Intra-farm transfers	<p>During intra-farm transfers, <i>regrouping fish of the same flag origin and the same JFO</i>, may be authorised by the farm CPC competent authority, providing that traceability, as established in <i>paragraph 5 of Recommendation 18-13</i>, and the applicability of SCRS's growth rates, are maintained.</p>
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The United States indicated that this issue had already been discussed several times and finally this text was included in the bluefin tuna measure. Nonetheless the United States noted that, following previous discussions, they were not entirely convinced about the traceability aspects of this measure and reminded that they accepted the text but understood that a functionality, developed later, would be necessary, without which it would be insufficient.

The eBCD TWG Chair also recalled that this issue has already been discussed in the past: due to the complexity of the issue it has been put aside, but now a specific paragraph has been adopted and the debate needs to be reopened.

The EU recalled that in the previous debate on this issue, Tragsa was asked to examine the issue of traceability in this type of groupings and again requested Tragsa's opinion on whether the eBCD system would allow traceability to be maintained given the conditions set out in the paragraph.

Tragsa indicated that although it would need a more in-depth analysis to determine whether traceability is compromised, it does see possibilities.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded by requesting time and costs analysis together with the full technical description of the proposal from Tragsa.

Final decision: Time/cost analysis to be requested.

**6.17 Paragraph 204 of Rec. 21-08: Control activities in farms after caging / Carry-over**

204	Control activities in farms after caging / Carry-over	A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent authority and <i>recorded in the eBCD system</i> . In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with Annex 10.
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.18 Paragraph 206 of Rec. 21-08: Control activities in farms after caging / Carry-over declaration**

206	Control activities in farms after caging / Carry-over declaration	Farm CPCs shall complete and transmit, as an annex to the revised farming management plan, an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation. Such declaration shall include: a) Flag CPC; b) Name and ICCAT number of the farm; c) Year of catch; d) <i>References of the eBCD corresponding to the catches carried over</i> ; e) Cage numbers; f) Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish carried over; g) Average weight; h) Information of each of the carry-over assessment operations: date and cage numbers; i) Information on previous intra-farm transfers, when applicable.
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.19 Paragraph 212 of Rec. 21-08: Control activities in farms after caging / Random controls**

212	Control activities in farms after caging / Random controls	Following the random control, any difference between the number of bluefin tuna determined by the random controls and the number expected to be present in the cage shall be duly investigated and <i>recorded in the eBCD system</i> . In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number(s). The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with Annex 10. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the control transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM at the latest by 2023. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the eBCD system.

**6.20 Annex 9 of Rec. 21-08: 4. Use of the outcome of the stereoscopic camera systems**

Annex 9	4. Use of the outcome of the stereoscopic camera systems	a) apply the following measures as regards releases and adaptation of the <i>eBCD</i> sections for catching vessels operating within the framework of an individual fishing operation (outside a JFO); i. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the <i>eBCD</i> is within the range of the stereoscopic camera system results: - no release shall be ordered; - the <i>eBCD</i> shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
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		<p>ii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the <i>eBCD</i> is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results;</li> <li>- the release operations shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in Annex 10;</li> <li>- after the release operations took place, the <i>eBCD</i> shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.</li> </ul> <p>iii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the <i>eBCD</i> exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no release shall be ordered;</li> <li>- the <i>eBCD</i> shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the stereoscopic camera system, and average weight accordingly.</li> </ul> <p>b) ensure that for any relevant modification of the <i>eBCD</i>, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.</p>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the *eBCD* system.

**6.21 Annex 9 of Rec. 21-08: 5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps**

Annex 9	5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps	2. In case of compensation of differences in weight between what has been determined by the stereoscopic camera and the correspondent catch found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant <i>eBCD</i> shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic camera system results.
Annex 9	5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps	3. The <i>eBCD</i> related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight and the corresponding number of fish released. <i>The eBCD related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.</i>
Annex 9	5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps	4. The <i>eBCD</i> relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the *eBCD* system.

**6.22 Annex 10 of Rec. 21-08: Release Protocol / Issuing of release orders**

Annex 10	Release Protocol / Issuing of release orders	<p>2. Release orders after caging shall be issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, following procedures in paragraph 180 to 182 it is established that the weight caged exceed that reported caught. The release order shall be notified to the farm CPC competent authority, which shall transmit it to the farm operator concerned; or</li> <li>b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, after harvest, the remaining fish is not covered by an <i>eBCD</i>, or when a carry-over assessment or control transfer has identified an excess of fish.</li> </ul>
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Final decision: No changes or new developments are considered necessary for the *eBCD* system.

**6.23 Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08: Treatment of dead and/or lost fish**

Annex 11	Treatment of dead and/or lost fish	<p>Treatment of fish that die during first transfer</p> <p>3. The bluefin tuna that die during the first transfer from a purse seine vessel or trap shall be recorded in the purse seine vessel logbook or the trap daily catch report and reported on the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and on the transfer section of the <i>eBCD</i>.</p> <p>4. The <i>eBCD</i> shall be provided to the towing vessel(s) with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.</p> <p>5. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2, after deductions of all the mortalities observed between the catch and completion of the transfer.</p> <p>6. The <i>eBCD</i> shall be accompanied by the ITD in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The number of bluefin tuna reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the number reported in Section 3 in the associated <i>eBCD</i>.</p> <p>7. A split of the <i>eBCD</i> with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel or the trap if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split <i>eBCD</i> must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.</p> <p>8. With regard to <i>eBCD</i>, the dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch or, in the case of JFOs, either to participating catching vessels or flags.</p>
Annex 11	Treatment of dead and/or lost fish	<p><i>Treatment of fish that die during caging operations</i></p> <p>13. The fish that die during caging operations shall be reported by the operator on the caging declaration. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the number and weight of the fish that die is reported in the relevant field of Section 6 of the <i>eBCD</i>.</p>
Annex 11	Treatment of dead and/or lost fish	<p><i>Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during farming activities</i></p> <p>14. Dead or lost fish in farms or those that disappear from farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm operator's report shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence (complaint filed about the stolen fish, damage report in case of damage to the cage, etc.). After receipt of such report, the farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or cancellation of the <i>eBCD</i> concerned (following the necessary developments in the <i>eBCD</i> system).</p>

Morocco stated that the treatment and reporting procedures have now changed considerably, in particular, the way in which fish that die in the course of a transfer operation or are considered lost are recorded in the *eBCD*. Section 6 of the *eBCD* does not, at present, have any field for recording the number of dead fish or their weight and this would require further development. At the end of paragraph 14 of this Annex 11, it indicates that the competent authority of the CPC should implement the necessary changes to the *eBCD* or should cancel it (depending on the necessary developments of the *eBCD* system); this also has implications for the current *eBCD* system.

The EU agreed with Morocco that Section 6 of *eBCD* should be amended so that dead fish can be recorded in this section. This also applies in towing operations between the last transfer and before caging.

Tragsa noted that they needed to carry out an analysis to consider the implications of these changes before coming to any conclusions on the implications of including new fields in new sections and explained in detail how the current process of recording dead fish is carried out.

The EU expressed the need to differentiate, between dead fish that are or are not marketable in the different sections where they are recorded and to define more clearly the recording of fish that occur during fattening after caging.

The United States wondered whether the presence of a Regional Observer would be necessary to determine the existence of dead fish during transfer or caging operations.

Tragsa clarified that the Regional Observer is only obliged to sign the caging and harvesting. In the case of natural mortality, although a "Harvesting" Section is created for it, a Regional Observer is not required to sign unless such harvested fish are traded.

The United States was of the belief that the presence of a Regional Observer may need to be considered and regarding paragraph 14 of Annex 11, it refers to the action of a competent authority, but it is not clear whether this action should be reflected in a validation and hence what is the concrete development of each step of the procedure described therein.

Morocco pointed out that paragraph 14 of Annex 11 does not only refer to dead fish (marketed or not) but also to fish that are considered lost or stolen. In these cases, they are submitted to the competent authority, and it is the competent authority that should apply the necessary modifications in the eBCD concerned or should cancel it (depending on the necessary developments of the eBCD system). Morocco considered this part of the paragraph as not clear.

The EU has doubts about the cancellation of an eBCD because of the consequences about traceability. They considered that all fish caught must be registered in the eBCD whether they are marketed or reported as dead, lost or stolen.

The United States, following on from the EU, added that part of the problem is that it is not established exactly how to proceed in each of the cases listed in this paragraph. In cases, the competent authority can arbitrarily decide whether the fish are marketable or not. That is why it is necessary that all fish be recorded in the system.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that everyone agreed that the eBCD system should reflect what happens in each case and therefore functionality needs be developed to reflect all cases provided by Rec. 21-08.

Tragsa considered that the best approach to address this issue would be to create a new section within each existing section. These sections would be final (no other sections could be added from them) and would deduct the dead/lost fish/kg from those available from the eBCD. However, they noted that this implies substantial changes to the whole system including reporting. Furthermore, more discussion and details would be needed to fulfill such a development.

Morocco, regarding this Tragsa proposal, recalled that there are several steps/stages at which dead fish can be recorded: before caging, during caging, etc. and asked whether this new Section could be added at all these stages. For example, paragraph 13 of Annex 11 clearly states that fish that die during the caging operation must be recorded in Section 6 and not elsewhere.

Tragsa responded that this new Section was intended to include, in the transfer section, non-marketable fish that die before caging. Currently, marketable dead fish are included by adding them to a "Trade" Section and non-marketable fish are included by ticking the natural death box in the "Harvesting" Section. This new Section would also deal with the other cases discussed above: stolen fish, escaped fish, etc., but always starting from the "Caging" Section.

The EU noted also the importance to consider how lost fish would be dealt with prior to and after caging in the system. They noted that once caging is complete, there would already be quota consumption, and at that point the objective is to avoid marketable fish being considered as unmarketable, so it is imperative to fix the cases with respect to CPCs quota consumption.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that further analysis is needed from Tragsa in order to submit a more concrete proposal for this development.

Final decision: Time/cost analysis to be requested.

## **Questions and possible new developments**

The eBCD TWG Chair asked the CPCs, if they believed any other new developments beyond those set out above would require any discussions.

### ***Proposal from EU on possible new "Harvesting" Section for traps***

The EU proposed that in addition to the current "Harvesting" Section for those that occur after the "Farming" Section, the traps should have a "Harvesting" Section.

Tragsa explained that only a "Live Trade" Section or a "Dead Trade" Section can be added from a "Catch" Section. In the case of traps, either a "Live Trade" Section (which could end in a harvesting section) or a "Dead Trade" Section can be added from the traps.

The EU clarified that it refers to those catches in the traps that are currently traded. Therefore a "Harvesting" Section adapted to this type of catch would better reflect what happens in the traps.

Tragsa indicated that as the "Harvesting" Section is currently configured, it would not be possible to readapt it for this purpose: the definition of harvesting would have to be reviewed as well as the reasons that led to the trap catches being treated as they are now in the system.

Morocco stated that the provisions surrounding "Harvesting" (from farm) are very different from those applicable to harvesting in a trap: neither require the presence of Regional Observers nor take into account the use of cages.

The EU concluded that it should be considered whether it is necessary to assess the need to create a new "Harvesting" Section for the trap, considering the different nature of the operations in order to determine whether or not it is worthwhile from a technical and cost point of view.

Morocco pointed out that the definition of Harvesting has not changed: "Harvesting of tuna in the cage or trap".

The EU reiterated that although this definition has not changed, it was considering that the eBCD could reflect the reality of what is happening on the ground while underscoring there is no obligation for a Regional Observer's presence.

The eBCD TWG concluded that no new development is necessary.

Final decision: Withdrawn by the EU.

### ***Button for deleting active user sessions/cookies***

The United States asked whether it would be possible to have a functionality that would solve the problem of duplicate sessions through a single action by the user.

Tragsa explained that currently in production there is already a message that adequately describes what is happening and how to solve it. The deletion of cookies/sessions can only be done on a single browser, and it should be assessed by the CPCs whether it is worth spending resources on a functionality that is already implemented by the browsers themselves.

The United States indicates that it would be useful to have a time/cost estimate to make an assessment of whether development is worthwhile.

**Final decision:** Time/cost analysis to be requested.

### ***Modification of the JFO printed eBCD***

The United States indicated that it is currently not clear from the printed eBCD corresponding to a JFO catch, which vessel physically made the catch.

Tragsa shared its screen to explain how the vessel responsible for the catch is marked on a printed eBCD and on the eBCD digitally displayed by the system application.

Both the United States and the EU agreed that the confusion stems from a problem of terminology that could be solved by changing the labelling of this field in the eBCD.

Tunisia, with regard to terminology, indicated that care should be taken to modify the current terminology as it has a specific meaning. The term "Responsible" within a JFO refers to the person, or entity, designated to make the eBCD declaration of the catch of the JFO.

The EU and United States clarified that it is the word "Representative" that is causing the confusion, as it would be more correct to speak about "Responsible" in this case, and that this change would suffice.

Tragsa noted that the terminology used in Spanish and French versions of the eBCD system differ from the one used in the English version and considered that these terminologies could be aligned to avoid any misunderstandings.

This change in the eBCD system can be made under the maintenance contract.

Algeria also expressed the same confusion about the word "Representative" and believes the change proposed is the most appropriate.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that the current English word "Representative" should be changed in the eBCD system to match the terminology used in the Spanish and French versions which use "Responsable".

Final decision: Tragsa: With no charge, this is to be made/carried out under maintenance.

***Question from Japan on obtaining the necessary data for the calculation of growth rates***

Japan noted that it was exploring the possibility for the eBCD system to allow officials of importing CPCs to know the data related to the calculation of the growth rate handled by exporting CPCs. This information is currently provided to Japan by these CPCs on a voluntary basis on request.

The EU asked Japan what specific data it needed and whether this would be an aggregated information. Japan explained that the data required are the dates of caging, harvesting, quantity and weight of fish harvested. In short, it allows to know what has happened to the fish from caging to export. Japan also confirmed that these would be aggregate data.

Tragsa pointed out that these data can be obtained once the tuna is marketed through the raw data reports, although they should confirm whether all the data Japan needs are already in existing reports.

Japan asked whether, from a technical point of view, it would also be possible to obtain these data before trading the tuna.

Tragsa responded that this is not possible at the moment, so its feasibility would have to be considered in order to take it forward in a development.

The EU considered that such issues raised many questions of confidentiality and should therefore be referred to IMM for forwarding to Panel 2 before any such development is made.

Final decision: This question should be deferred to IMM and referred to PA2.

***Question from the EU on validation statuses in eBCDs with tags***

In the eBCD raw data reports there is a section regarding tagging: in the list of eBCDs with tags. They asked whether it would be possible to obtain the validation status of these eBCDs.

Tragsa explained that when obtaining the raw data report by section, in the capture tab, the tag numbers can be seen and, at the end of each sheet of the report, its validation status can be consulted.

***Question from Morocco on parallel transfers***

Morocco asked, about the new functionality of parallel transfers put into production this year, whether these transfers relate to a single farm or to several farms, noting that there is no information in the eBCD system handbook for this functionality.

Tragsa explained that no handbook was made about this development because it is a correction of an already existing functionality: specifically of the algorithm for traceability with respect to parallel transfers occurring on the same farm. This development avoids the traceability alert that appeared when these cases occurred and avoids having to go through the procedure that was usually done in the "Transfer" Section to circumvent this problem.

***Question from Algeria on inconsistency alerts***

Algeria indicated that certain inconsistency alerts appear in the eBCD system which, when the user logs off and logs on again, disappear. Algeria wonders whether it would be possible to make them disappear manually without having to "re-access" the system when these alerts appear.

Tragsa had no knowledge of these circumstances since an inconsistency should not disappear from the system simply because a user re-accesses the system. Tragsa asked Algeria to send all the necessary information about the case (screenshots, eBCD number, etc.) to the support channel of the eBCD system so that they can see what is happening the next time such a case occurs.

**7. Coordination with the CDS WG and of issues from CDS WG of relevance**

The eBCD TWG Chair explained that ICCAT had now created a new Working Group dedicated exclusively to the Catch Document Scheme (CDS), under the framework of Resolution 21-21 which met on 4 and 5 April 2022. There is a reference in the Resolution that calls for coordination with the eBCD TWG.

It was agreed that Tragsa should be consulted on whether new developments would be necessary or whether there is the possibility of extending the current eBCD system to meet the needs of CDS for other species. It was noted that eBCD was likely to be considerably more complex and deals with many more operations and associated sections. Hence without prejudice to any decision of ICCAT, the adaption of eBCD to other CDS could potentially be possible and simpler.

Canada agreed with eBCD TWG Chair that any potential electronic CDS would have fewer sections than the eBCD system and would be an opportunity to take advantage of all the experience gained with the eBCD system.

The EU requested the Secretariat or Tragsa to provide a list of the current fields of the eBCDs so that they can be made available to the CDS WG for their discussions on required fields of any potential new CDS programme.

The Secretariat, in reply to the EU, noted that that the volume of information is likely to be much larger than what is currently supported by the eBCD system for bluefin tuna.

Tragsa explained that the current logic of the eBCD system is closely linked to bluefin tuna and they would need very precise definition before assessing further whether the eBCD system can be used for other species.

The Tragsa explained that the eBCD system in principal is extensible, however it is already a very large system and this means that any modification to include new species will require very precise definition to evaluate any new developments in this regard.

The eBCD TWG Chair summarized that as requested Tragsa should provide a list of the current BCD fields to be compared with other CDS KDEs (Key Data Elements).

#### **8. Future intersessional work as required**

The United States asked whether the eBCD TWG's further work will be taken up by correspondence or whether another meeting of the eBCD TWG is foreseen before the annual meeting.

The eBCD TWG Chair replied that currently this was the only eBCD TWG foreseen this year. Notwithstanding, the possibility of having another meeting prior to the 2022 annual meeting, should be explored by IMM in consultation with the Secretariat. He noted that the report of this meeting would be circulated by correspondence highlighting those issues specifically requiring a decision of IMM.

#### **9. Future budgetary and contractual matters**

The Secretariat briefly outlined the current budget/contracts and the expenditures to date and indicated that there was approximately 340,000 Euros to cover any new developments being requested by the eBCD TWG.

#### **10. Any other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

#### **11. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. System overall state of play
5. Review/progress of system developments previously agreed
6. Consideration of new developments required by conservation and management measures adopted in 2021
7. Coordination with the CDS WG and of issues from CDS WG of relevance
8. Future intersessional work as required
9. Budgetary and contractual matters
10. Any other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

## List of participants

### **CONTRACTING PARTIES**

#### **ALGERIA**

**Belacel, Amar \***

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de la pêche et des productions halieutiques, Route quatre Canons, 16000

Tel: +213 214 33197; +213 796 832 690, E-Mail: amar.belacel67@gmail.com; amar.belacel@mpeche.gov.dz

**Chahi, Ouahiba née Ali Toudert**

Sous-Directrice de la Grande Pêche et de la pêche spécialisée, Ministère de la Pêche et des Productions Halieutiques, Route des Quatre Canons, 1600

Tel: +213 21 43 33 37; +213 7 72 34 44 21, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: ouahibachahi@gmail.com; ouahiba.chahi@mpeche.gov.dz

**Kouadri-Krim, Assia**

Sous-Directrice infrastructures, industries et services liés à la pêche, Ministère de la Pêche et des Productions Halieutiques, Direction du développement de la pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 1600

Tel: +213 558 642 692, Fax: +213 214 33197, E-Mail: assiakrim63@gmail.com; assia.kouadri@mpeche.gov.dz

#### **CANADA**

**Kerwin, Jessica**

Large Pelagic Resource Manager, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 291 7480, E-Mail: jessica.kerwin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

#### **CHINA, (P.R.)**

**Fang, Lianyong**

Assistant Director, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room 1216, Jingchao Massion, Nongzhanguannan Road, Cahoyang District, 100125 Beijing

Tel: +86 10 65853488, Fax: +86 10 65850551, E-Mail: fanglianyong@cofa.net.cn

**Li, Tinglin**

Room 1216, Jingchao Massion, Nongzhanguannan Road, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing

Tel: +86 1 065 850 683, Fax: +86 1 065 850 551, E-Mail: litinglin@cofa.net.cn; 962146246@QQ.COM

#### **EGYPT**

**Atteya, Mai**

Production Research Specialist, New Cairo

Tel: +201 003 878 312, Fax: +202 281 117 007, E-Mail: janahesham08@gmail.com

**Shawky, Doaa Hafez**

International Agreements Specialist, Foreign Affairs Specialist, New Cairo

Tel: +201 017 774 198, Fax: +202 281 117 007, E-Mail: doahafezshawky@yahoo.com; gafrd\_eg@hotmail.com

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

**Aláez Pons, Ester**

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 296 48 14; +32 470 633 657, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

**Khalil, Samira**

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B-1 "International Affairs, Law of the Sea and RFOs", J II - 99 3/74, Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 298 03 39; +32 229 11111, E-Mail: samira.khalil@ec.europa.eu

**Miranda, Fernando**

DG MARE, Joseph II St, 99, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +322 299 3922, E-Mail: fernando.miranda@ec.europa.eu

**Alonso Sánchez**, Beatriz  
C/ Velázquez, 147, 28002 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 639 047 695; +34 91 347 62 70, E-Mail: basanchez@mapa.es

**Ansell**, Neil  
European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

**Bošnjak**, Marija  
Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Service for aquaculture, Office Split, Trg hrvatske bratske zajednice 8, 21000, Croatia  
Tel: +385 21 444 062, Fax: +385 21 444 027, E-Mail: marija.bosnjak@mps.hr

**Boulay**, Justine  
Bureau du contrôle des pêches, Fisheries Control Unit, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et de la Mer, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Tour Séquoia, 1 place Carpeaux, 75000 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 140 819 555, E-Mail: justine.boulay@agriculture.gouv.fr

**Connery**, Paul  
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority Custom, House Druids Lane, H91XV2C Galway, Ireland  
Tel: +353 87 929 4738, E-Mail: Paul.Connery@SFPA.ie

**Ergolavou**, Anna  
Ministry of Rural Development and Food, DG for Sustainable Fisheries, Directorate Control of Fishing Activities and Fishery Products, 150, A.Syrou Avenue, 17671 Athens, Greece  
Tel: +30 2109287135, E-Mail: aergolavou@minagric.gr

**Gómez Martín**, Belén  
Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velazquez, 147, Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 913 476 108, E-Mail: bgmartin@mapa.es

**Harris**, Sarah  
Malta Aquaculture Research Centre, Fort San Lucjan, BBG1283 Marsaxlokk, Malta  
Tel: +356 229 26918, E-Mail: sarah.harris@gov.mt

**Herceg**, Darijo (Dario)  
Ministry of Agriculture, Ulica Alexandera von Humboldta 4b, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 164 43278, E-Mail: dario.herceg@mps.hr

**Jugović**, Iva  
Ministry of agriculture, Directorate of fisheries, Sector for Surveillance and Fisheries Control, Unit for Fisheries Control, Ivana Mažuranića 30, 23000 Zadar, Croatia  
Tel: +385 994 865 841, Fax: +385 233 09831, E-Mail: iva.jugovic@mps.hr; ivaj1811@gmail.com

**Loisel**, Fanny  
Chargée de mission, Bureau du contrôle des pêches, Fisheries Control Unit Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Tour Séquoia, 75020 La Défense (Paris), France  
Tel: +33 140 819 331, E-Mail: fanny.loisel@agriculture.gouv.fr; fanny.loisel@hotmail.fr

**Šebalj**, Valentina  
Ministry of Agriculture, Ivana Mažuranića 30, 23000 Zadar, Croatia  
Tel: +385 23 309 820, E-Mail: valentina.sebalj@mps.hr

**Sokol**, Mislav  
Ministry of Agriculture, Humboldtova 4B, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 99 527 9339, E-Mail: mislav.sokol@mps.hr

**Vidakovic**, Tomislav  
Ministry of agriculture, Directorate of fisheries, Alexandera von Humboldta 4b, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 164 73073, E-Mail: tomislav.vidakovic@mps.hr

## **HONDURAS**

**Cardona Valle**, Fidelia Nathaly

Colonia Lomo Linda Norte, Avenida FAO, edificio SENASA, 11101 Tegucigalpa Francisco Morazán

Tel: +504 877 88713, E-Mail: investigacion.dgpa@gmail.com

## **JAPAN**

**Hosokawa**, Natsuki

Technical Official, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 350 28460, Fax: +81 3 5646 2649, E-Mail: natsuki\_hosokawa730@maff.go.jp

**Ito**, Kohei

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-ku 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8204, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: kohei\_ito060@maff.go.jp

**Morita**, Hiroyuki

Assistant Director, Responsible for the JCAP-2 Programme, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: hiroyuki\_morita970@maff.go.jp

## **KOREA (REP.)**

**Kim**, Taeho

Korea Overseas Fisheries Association, 6th Fl. Samho Center Bldg. "A" 83, Nohnyeon-ro, Seocho-gu, 06775 Seoul

Tel: +82 2 589 1615, Fax: +82 2 589 1630, E-Mail: taehokim@kosfa.org

**Park**, Jeong-Yeon

14F~15F, 89, Mapo-daero, Mapo-gu, 04156 Seoul

Tel: +82 2 2660 9621, Fax: +82 2 2660 9621, E-Mail: kine0622@korea.kr

**Park**, Minjae

Assistant Director, National Fishery Product Quality Management Service (NFQS), Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, 337, Haeyang-ro, Yeongdo-gu, 49111 Busan

Tel: +82 51 602 6035; +82 51 400 5741, Fax: +82 51 400 5745, E-Mail: acepark0070@korea.kr

## **MEXICO**

**Soler Benitez, Bertha Alicia**

Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y pesca (CONAPESCA), Av. Camarón Sábalo 1210 Fracc. Sábalo Country Club., 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa

Tel: +52 669 915 6900 Ext. 58462, E-Mail: berthaa.soler@gmail.com

## **MOROCCO**

**Sabbane**, Kamal

Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Quartier Administratif BP 476, 10090 Agdal, Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 196, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: sabbane@mpm.gov.ma

## **TUNISIA**

**Mejri**, Hamadi

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 30, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002

Tel: +216 24 012 780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

**Samet**, Amor

Directeur de Tunisia Tuna, Nouveau Port de pêche Sfax, Z.I Rejiche BP 148, 5100 Mahdia Sfax

Tel: +216 21 413 099, Fax: +216 736 95112, E-Mail: amorsamet@gmail.com

**Toumi**, Néji

Directeur de la Ste TUNA FARMS of Tunisia, Port de pêche de Hergla, 4012, 4012 Hergla, Sousse

Tel: + 216 22 25 32 83, Fax: + 216 73 251 800, E-Mail: neji.tft@planet.tn; hntm64@yahoo.com

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**May, Stefan**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

Tel: +44 208 026 7627, E-Mail: stefan.may@defra.gov.uk

**UNITED STATES**

**Blankenbeker, Kimberly**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce (F/IATC), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

**Harris, Madison**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce (F/IATC), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8350; +1 202 480 4592, E-Mail: madison.harris@noaa.gov

**Miller, Alexander**

NOAA Fisheries, National Seafood Inspection Lab, 3209 Frederic Street Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567

Tel: +1 228 369 1699; +1 228 217 4188, Fax: +1 228 762 7144, E-Mail: alexander.miller@noaa.gov

***OBSERVER FROM NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES***

**MONTENEGRO (REP.)**

**Divanovic, Milica**

Senior advisor for data entry, data processing and data reporting in fisheries (DCF-DCRF), Rimski trg 46, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

Tel: +38 220 482 270, E-Mail: milica.divanovic@mpsv.gov.me

**SCRS CHAIRMAN**

**Melvin, Gary**

St. Andrews Biological Station - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 285 Water Street, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 1B8, Canada

Tel: +1 506 652 95783; +1 506 651 6020, E-Mail: gary.d.melvin@gmail.com; gary.melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**INVITED EXPERT**

**Rodríguez Sánchez, Mercedes**

TRAGSA, C/ Julián Camarillo 6B, 28037 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 322 5455, E-Mail: mrodr125@tragsa.es

\*\*\*\*\*

**ICCAT Secretariat**

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

**Manel, Camille Jean Pierre**

**Cheatle, Jenny**

**Idrissi, M'Hamed**

**Parrilla Moruno, Alberto Thais**

**De Andrés, Marisa**

**Campoy, Rebecca**

**Donovan, Karen**

**García-Orad, María José**

**Motos, Beatriz**

**Peyre, Christine**

**Pinet, Dorothée**

**Martínez Herranz, Javier**

**Samedy, Valérie**

**Vieito, Aldana**

**Peña, Esther**

**ICCAT Interpreters**

**Baena Jiménez, Eva J.**

**Gelb Cohen, Beth**

**Hof, Michelle Renée**

**Liberas, Christine**

**Meunier, Isabelle**

**Sánchez del Villar, Lucía**



# Implementation of the eBCD System



State of play of eBCD project (April 2021 – March 2022)



Grupo Tragsa (Grupo SEPI) - Sede Social: Maldonado, 58 - 28006 Madrid

Tel.: 91 322 60 00 - [www.tragsa.es](http://www.tragsa.es)

*Implementation of the eBCD System*

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**Index**

1.	Annual Report of User Support Service .....	29
1.1.	Statistics about User Support Service.....	29
1.2.	Main difficulties found from 1 January 2021.....	31
2.	Status of issues discussed at the June 2021 WG meeting.....	32
2.1.	Issues developed and updated in Production Environment .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.2.	Issues cost estimated but not requested.....	36
2.3.	Issues pending a decision of IMM.....	39
2.4.	Other issues considered “open” at June 2021.....	39
2.5.	Issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending.....	41
3.	New issues .....	43
3.1.	Asynchronous Reports.....	43

## 1. Annual Report of User Support Service

All data provided in this report considers 1 January 2021 as start date and 31 December 2021 as end date.

### 1.1. Statistics about User Support Service

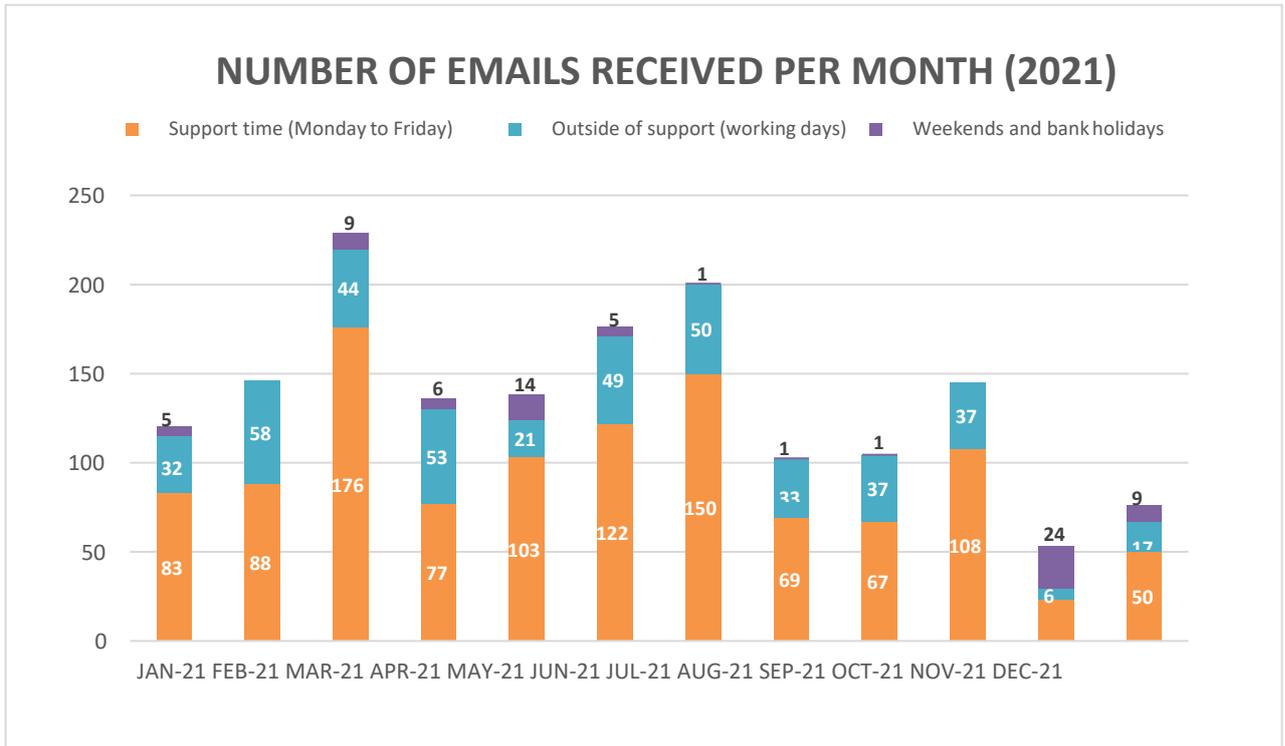
From 1 January to 31 December 2021 (365 calendar days), Tragsa carried out a 7 hours 5 days user support service during May, June, July and August, and 6 hours 5 days user support service the rest of the months in 2021.

From 1 January to 31 December 2021, 40 CPCs or Flags have contacted the user support service, 1,628 emails were received and a total of 2,159 emails were exchanged. Each day of these 365 calendar days, an average of 4.5 emails were received.

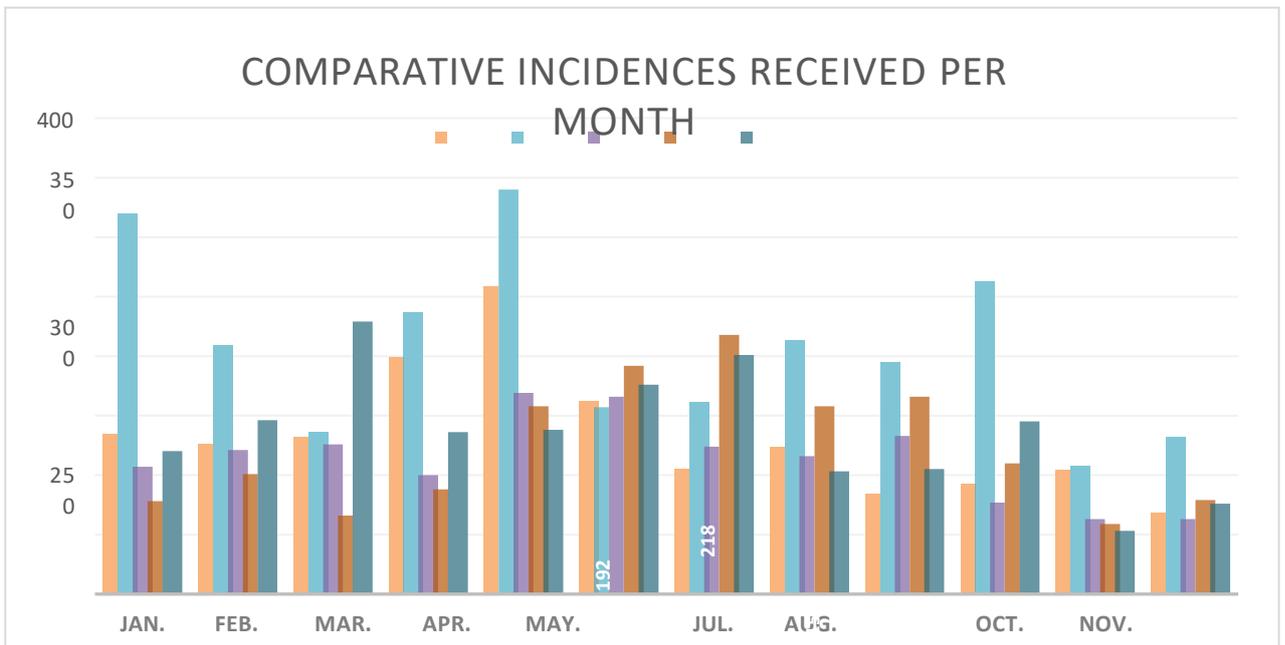
January 1 to December 31 2021							
Type day	Received from 1 January to 31 December	Nº of CPCs/Flags that contacted the support team	Emails received	Emails exchanged	Nº of days	Average emails received per day during this period	Average emails exchanged per day during this period
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>2159</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Working days	Within Support Schedule	33	1116	1475	248	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
	Out of Support Schedule	28	437	580		<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Weekends and Bank holidays		11	75		117	<b>0.6</b>	

135.6 is the average of emails received per month, March being the month with the highest number of emails received (229 emails), with an average of 7.3 emails/per day.

The figure below desegregates the number of emails received during the working days in the user support working hours, outside of these working hours, and on weekends and bank holidays.



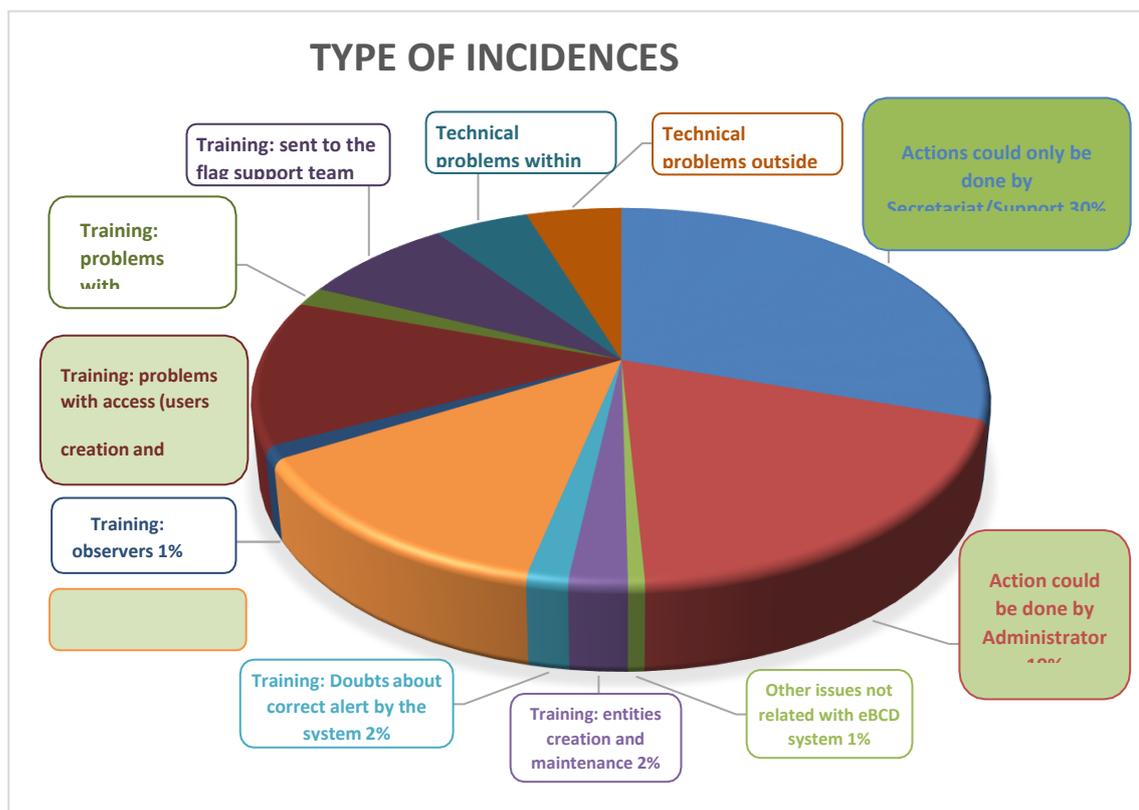
The total emails received per month in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 in comparison to those received in 2021, can be seen in the chart below.



## 1.2. Main difficulties found from 1 January 2021

The figure below illustrates the main categories in which incidences received could be included.

Most of the incidents received are related to actions that only Support and/or the ICCAT Secretariat can do (30%). Many others involved actions that could be done by Flag/CPC administrators (19%). In addition, incidents related to how to use the eBCD (13%) are common. Furthermore, problems related to user access (users creation and maintenance) represent 13% of incidents received.



Among the emails classified as **“Actions could only be done by Secretariat/Support”**, the following issues may be highlighted:

- Request from a country / user to write other flag requesting an action.
- Creation, maintenance and consult, of Non CPC companies.
- Request to delete or change a registry in the Database.

Within the emails classified as **“Actions that could be done by administrators”**, include actions such as:

- Edit companies’ permits or information.
- Information of pending account requested
- Edit user’s permits or information
- Actions related to section’s edition

Main problems included in **“Training”** category can be grouped in:

- General doubts regarding *‘how to use the eBCD’*: i.e. how new sections in the system are created (related to new functionalities), how an information in the system can be modified, and how to use the test environment.
- Problems due to doubts regarding the *creation and maintenance of users*: i.e. username and password misplaced or incorrect, users were not familiar with self-registration or doubts related to how the management of the requests is.

- Mails related to problems that *can be solved by the Flag Technical Support* and it was sent to them.
- Problems related to *validation process*: i.e. most of these due to certificate misplacement or expiry and doubts related to how to validate taking into account GMT hour in the system.

Among the emails classified as **“Technical problems within eBCD”**, the following should be highlighted:

- *Errors found in the system*: e.g. the problem of updating a csv file with more than 400 tags, or an error detected in a BFTRC, which did not return the available kilos to the eBCD tree after being erased.
- *Problems related to downloading reports*.

Within those classified as **“Technical problems outside system”**, we can find problems accessing the system or the system displaying an error while accessing, due to a server failure.

## 2. Status of issues discussed at the June 2021 WG meeting

At the last WG meeting in June 2021, the Group decided to address in first place all the issues for which cost estimates were requested. Then, issues pending a decision from IMM or the Group were discussed. Finally, CPCs, the ICCAT Secretariat and Tragsa also had the chance to explain to the Group the new issues detected since the last meeting.

Below can be found five summary tables. The first one includes the activities that are already in the production environment, updated from the last WG meeting. The second table includes the issues for which cost estimates have been requested; the third one includes an issue that was pending an IMM decision; the fourth one contains issues considered “open” for further discussion. The last one included other issues discussed in the previous WG meeting which are still pending. For a more in-depth explanation of what was discussed in the meeting, see sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.

Summary tables of pending issues:

ISSUES DEVELOPED FROM LAST WORKING GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS
<b>ISSUES DEVELOPED</b>	REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	JFO SINCHRONIZATION	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	PARALLEL TRANSFERS FROM LIVE TRADE. ADAPT PARALLEL TRANSFERS FUNCTIONALITY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PARALLEL LIVE TRADES	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	IMPROVED MESSAGES FROM THE EBCD SYSTEM TO THE USER	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT

**Table 1** - List of issues developed from last Working Group and updated in Production Environment.

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
<b>ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED</b>	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	Requirements sent on May 31 2019
	CAMPAIGN SETUP USING A FORM	Requirements sent on March 31 2022
	BCDs SEARCH	Requirements sent on March 31 2022
	INCLUDE A "START DATE" IN ROLE'S PERMISSIONS	Requirements sent on March 31 2022

**Table 2** - List of issues for which cost estimation was considered necessary by the Group.

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM WG OR IMM	TOPIC	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
<b>Discuss if adding BCD code to ICCAT transfer declaration will link both documents</b>	Transshipments linked with eBCD (Para 80 Rec 19-04)	Pending IMM

**Table 3** - Other issues pending a decision of IMM.

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>Reference 2019-7: Develop a read- only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS</b>	It is discussed how international inspectors could access the eBCD system, and how to manage their read-only profile	Open
<b>Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging</b>	Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight	Open

**Table 4** - List of issues considered “open” at June 2021.

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections</b>	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Pending receiving plausible transformations
<b>When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch</b>	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Open
<b>Transport area within TD section to be mandatory and include dates of departure and arrival</b>	Adding the dates for departure and arrival in the transport area within a TD in order to have this information available in the system	Open
<b>Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO</b>	Fish regrouping in intra-farm transfers, in a new cage by assigning this operation a new eBCD with its own code	Open
<b>Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD</b>	Display in the print eBCD version weight and number of fish data both from the eBCD and from the stereoscopic cameras result when included	Open
<b>Mortality during towing voyage</b>	Reflect mortality during towing vessel in chronological order	Open

**Table 5** - List of issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending.

ISSUES DEVELOPED FROM LAST WORKING GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS
<b>ISSUES DEVELOPED</b>	REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	JFO SINCHRONIZATION	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	PARALLEL TRANSFERS FROM LIVE TRADE. ADAPT PARALLEL TRANSFERS FUNCTIONALITY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PARALLEL LIVE TRADES	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	IMPROVED MESSAGES FROM THE EBCD SYSTEM TO THE USER	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT

## 2.1. Issues developed and updated in Production Environment

### 2.1.1. Reference 2019-4b: Print Functions: Other Presentations

Japan requests to show in the printed version of the eBCD the totals of the subtypes included in “Other” reflected in the electronic version of the BCD. Tragsa reminds that this will imply a modification of the eBCD format included in Rec 11-20. Nevertheless, the TWG decides that when “Other” products are recorded in a trade section, the system will add a new line in the printed version, where the “Other” subtype presentation selected with the kilos reflected in the electronic version, will be included. Tragsa asks if this is also necessary for the transshipment section, but the TWG confirms that this action is only necessary for the Trade section.

**TRAGSA March 2019:** Japan considers that this issue should be developed. Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by the ICCAT Secretariat.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** This activity was cost-estimated on 31 May 2019 and the development has not been officially requested yet.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** There were no questions regarding this issue/development. *This functionality was uploaded to the system in November 2021.*

*2.12. Parallel transfers from live trade. adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades*

The issue was addressed at the WG in June 2016, after some CPCs communicated to Tragsa that one catch could be sold at two different moments to the same farm. That possibility was not considered in the algorithms that checks traceability when using this option. Time cost analysis was decided at the January 2018 meeting.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** This issue was not included in the list of activities to be cost estimated sent on 10 April 2019, but Tragsa considers it one of the most important developments as several incidences are received each year on this issue. This issue concerns all catches where live tuna is split in more than one section (more than one live trade, more than one caging or live trade and caging). The activity was originally cost-estimated on 18 October 2018 and the development has not yet been officially requested.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** It was discussed that this issue of the eBCD system is important, i.e. that the algorithm is not prepared to check correctly traceability in cases of parallel transfers. It is considered urgent to develop this issue. *This functionality was uploaded to the system in November 2021.*

*2.13. JFO Synchronization*

This issue is related to the development 'REFERENCE 2018-1: REQUEST OF CHANGE OF LOCATION OF REGISTRIES MAINTAINED BY THE ICCAT SECRETARIAT' that was updated in the system in January 2021. While the 'REFERENCE 2018-1' development was requested only for farms, traps and ports were costed estimated and required. While the development was being completed, the need arose to also include the JFOs as part of the registries to be synchronized and its cost estimated.

The activity was originally cost-estimated on 1 December 2020 and the development has not yet been officially requested.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** As the rest of the entities were included in the synchronization, this one was considered important to develop, as it is the only one left. *This functionality was uploaded to the system in March 2022.*

*2.14. Improved messages from the eBCD system to the user*

Among the topics to be discussed in the next TWG meeting, we are considering including the modification of some messages that the system now displays and that may be somewhat confusing for the user.

This in turn causes the user not to know how to act on these messages and ends up going to the eBCD User Support (with the consequent loss of time for us and for the user himself).

A document has been created detailing some of the messages proposed for modification, as well as changes that could be made to improve them.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** Tragsa presents its opinion on these issues and the ones that could be done under maintenance allotment. It was decided to update the following issues under maintenance allotment:

- Message for incorrect credentials: The message displayed in the system when users try to access and the credentials filled in are not correct, would be changed.
- Duplicate session message: The message displayed in the system when the session is duplicated would be changed.
- Permit expiry message: The message of 'Error' displayed in the system would be changed in the case of users whose permits have expired.

- “I forgot my password” option: In order to reset the password, it was decided first to use the password, and second, the email, if this is a unique email in the system. If the email is used by different users, the system will display a message instructing the user to contact the administrators or support team. The email sent to the user by the system informs that the password must be changed in order to include the username, in addition to the password.

*These improved messages were uploaded to the system in November 2021.*

## **2.2. Issues cost estimated but not requested**

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
<b>ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED</b>	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	Requirements sent on May 31st 2019
	CAMPAIGN SETUP USING A FORM	Requirements sent on March 31st 2022
	BCDs SEARCH	Requirements sent on March 31st 2022
	INCLUDE A “START DATE” IN ROLE’S PERMISSIONS	Requirements sent on March 31st 2022

### *2.2.1. Reference 2019-8 (35): trades companies of other countries - adapt the system to allow access to NCP*

The issue was discussed at the March 2017 WG Meeting and it was decided that in order to meet Rec 15-10, access to non CPC member should be facilitated. Tragsa explains that opening the current roles to non CPCs could be addressed under maintenance allotment. If new roles are to be created, flexible allotment will be necessary. In the meeting it was agreed that:

- *Importer/Exporter and validator roles* will be opened up to non CPCs. Modifications under maintenance allotment. Tragsa proposes not to start this modification until it is decided to re-adapt the system to allow access to non CPCs (development of new roles and profiles, see comments below)
- *Representative of BFT ICCAT vessel; Representative of non BFT ICCAT vessel, Representative of a trap and Representative of a farm* are types of roles that are not going to be available for NCPs.
- Create two new roles under flexible allotment.
  - *Representative of NCP carrier vessel*: This type of user will only have “read-only” permissions over BCDs in which he is involved.
  - *NCP Administrator*: This type of role will have different permissions to CPC/Flag administrators. The requirements were decided during the meeting and are listed below.

*Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by the ICCAT Secretariat.*

<b>Possible requirements for the role Person Responsible for non CPC Administration</b>
<i>Access to record transshipment data of the tuna transshipped by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record export/selling data of dead fish from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record of the signature and date of signature in the purchase/import of dead fish of the purchases of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to modification of the buyer/importer Company of the dead fish products of the purchases of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record re-exportation data from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record re-exporter declaration of the re-exports from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record importer declaration of the purchases (re-exports) of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record and edit companies of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check companies of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check vessels of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check authorized ports of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to massive renewal of companies authorizations of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check entities from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check agencies from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record and edit users data associated with the entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check users associated with the entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to users requests and/or roles in entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to modify users data</i>
<i>Access to change users password</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Imported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Exported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Re-exported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to Help section</i>
<i>Access to Audit Changes</i>

**TRAGSA March 2019:** This activity was cost-estimated on 18 October 2018 and has not yet been officially requested. The budget presented by Tragsa was considered too expensive, so Tragsa proposes to recalculate the budget including less functionality so the Group can decide which option should be developed.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** This activity was cost-estimated again on 31 May 2019 and the development has not yet been officially requested.

Tragsa explains the impact of the decision to develop or not the items cost estimated:

- Not having **NCP Administrators**. In that case the ICCAT Secretariat profile should be responsible for accepting new users/roles and new companies.
  - Not having **Representatives of NCP Carrier vessels**. This seems to be the least important activity as a representative of the carrier vessel is not necessary for recording transfers or transshipments.
  - Adapting the **Registers** record will allow for creation of NCPC validation entities and Agencies.
  - Adapting the **Users Registration** functionality will allow for search, creation and edition of NCPC users.

- Adapting the **Self-Registration** functionality will allow for self-registration of importers and exporters from NCPCs.
- Adapting the **BCD Registry** allows for addition of trades from NCPCs to existing BCDs.
- Adapting the **BFTRC Registry** allows for creation of BFTRCs from NCPC exporting companies.
- Adapting **Reports** functionality allows NCPCs to download information on the BCDs in which they are involved.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** It was discussed that this development is important, i.e. the transactions record in the eBCD system with No CPCs. It was considered a non-urgent development to be undertaken immediately. *Development has not yet been officially requested.*

#### 2.2.2. Campaign setup using a form

The proposal is to create a form in the system in order to be able to setup each fishing campaign for users with an ICCAT Secretariat profile.

The form will allow for inclusion of the necessary information for activating the fishing campaign. This information could include linking the campaign to the appropriate CPCs, associating the quotas for each CPC or linking recommendations applicable to the campaign.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** It was considered an issue that can help the Secretariat with campaign management. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on 31 March.*

#### 2.2.3. eBCDs Search

Through the option "BCD and BFTRC Registry/Search BCD", the search for a single eBCD by its code is performed relatively quickly. However, if you do not know the eBCD code and you try to find one or more eBCDs through the other filters, the search becomes impossible in most cases (probably due to the high volume of data already in the database).

It would be convenient to reformulate this functionality or to try to find solutions for this type of searches so that they can be useful.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** It was discussed whether this issue was a necessity for the CPCs and if they have problems within the search area of the eBCD system. The result was inconclusive. If the improvement in search is to be taken into consideration, Tragsa would need to carry out an analysis in order to see how to improve it. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on 31 March.*

#### 2.2.4. Include a "start date" in role's permissions. issue raised by Tunisia (January 2018)

When the management permissions function was developed, it was decided to establish only an end date on permissions, not a start date. The idea was that if you now work for a certain farm or vessel, you might need to have access to all historical data/BCDs of that entity. In Tunisia's view, giving permissions to access the historical information of an entity may pose a confidentiality issue.

**TRAGSA January 2018:** The TWG accepts Tunisia's proposal, so Tragsa will cost estimate including a "Start date" for all the users permissions. This start date field will be optional, but when filled out, the user will not have access to BCDs and BFTRCs linked to that entity issued prior to the start date of the user. *Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by the ICCAT Secretariat.*

**TRAGSA January 2019:** Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** There were no further questions about this issue and it was considered important to develop. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on 31 March.*

**NOTE:** After deep analysis of this issue, we have seen the implications of this development in the system. As access to the system options and data currently depend on the profile permits of users, this development would involve adaptation of all the options to the 'Start Date' functionality. Therefore, a user will not only have limits on access to the system due to his user profile, but also the start of the time period from when he can access will be limited. This would not only apply for example to record sections but also to reports, to searches for eBCDs, searches for entities, etc. We consider that this functionality will affect the way users interact with the system, making it less operational.

### 2.3. Issues pending a decision of IMM

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM WG OR IMM	TOPIC	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
<b>Discuss if adding BCD code to ICCAT transfer declaration will link both documents</b>	Transshipments linked with Ebcd (Para 80 Rec 19-04)	Pending IMM

#### 2.3.1. Transshipments linked with eBCD (para 80 Rec. 19-04)

Paragraph 80 of Rec. 19-04 establishes that the transshipment declaration shall be linked to the eBCD system to facilitate data cross-checking.

In the meeting, the option is discussed of re-inclusion of a functionality that will allow for documents to be uploaded in transshipment section. This functionality will need to be cost estimated. In the end, it was decided to refer the issue to **IMM** to see if this paragraph could be satisfied by including the eBCD code in the transshipment declaration.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** We do not know if the **IMM** has decided that it is sufficient to include the BCD code in the transshipment declaration.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** After further discussion of the different ways of addressing this issue it was decided to refer it to IMM.

### 2.4. Other issues considered "open" at June 2021

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>Reference 2019-7: Develop a read- only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS</b>	It is discussed how international inspectors could access the eBCD system, and how to manage their read-only profile	Open
<b>Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging</b>	Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight	Open

#### 2.4.1. Reference 2019-7: develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS

These users will have permissions to access any eBCD under inspection.

**TRAGSA March 2019:** At the TWG meeting it is discussed how access by international inspectors to BCDs could be managed in the system. Tragsa informs that a list of inspectors will be necessary, and someone should establish periods of authorizations to allow them to access all the BCDs generated in that period of time. Another option could be to give permissions for certain vessels during a certain period of time, so that all BCDs recorded for that vessel at that time could be checked. The constraints of this option are that someone should maintain the observers list and give permissions to the international inspectors. Finally, it was decided that this should be referred to **IMM**.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** This functionality has not yet been cost estimated as some doubts have not been solved. The list of doubts sent by Tragsa and the answers provided are as follows:

1. **Who would create and maintain these users in the system?** ANSWER: The Secretariat would provide a list, or enter them similar to the ROPs
2. **Should all these users have access to all BCDs in the system or only to those from vessels inspected?** ANSWER: All relevant ones (i.e. catches and live trades for that year and hence “en route” (e.g. not harvests) – is this possible?
3. **Would these users have an “activity period”, so they would only have access to the documents during that period?** ANSWER: Perhaps the period during which they are designated as inspectors.

Tragsa gives some option to limit the access of these inspectors only to BCDs inspected or vessels inspected. In the end, the Group decides that the following three options will be considered:

1. The operator will give temporary access to the inspectors by sharing his account with them.
2. The inspector will not have access to the system. Nevertheless, the operator provides a copy of the document to the inspector.
3. The inspector will have access to the system and will search for inspected BCDs using a functionality that will allow him to search for BCDs of a searched vessel.

Tragsa will not be able to advance with the cost-estimation until the Group communicates to the development team how the system should work.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** The different approaches to this profile were discussed in depth. An important point for WG participants was that the inspector has permission to carry out their inspection only when needed. Moreover, that CPC administrator is notified when the entity is going to have an inspection. Tragsa presented a first draft of how these features could be combined in a profile, as an initial approach. Further discussion is needed for deciding how this profile should work within the eBCD system.

*2.4.2. Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-4. tagging:*

**TRAGSA September 2016:** The US asks if the system crosschecks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight. Tragsa confirms that the system does not inform of differences. **The option of reporting to Administrators when these figures exceed a certain % of tolerance is discussed.** An email will be sent to administrators but no inconsistency will be shown in the system. While Tragsa was present no % of tolerance was established. Modifications need to be made under Flexibility allotment.

**TRAGSA March 2017:** The issue is addressed again but no conclusion was obtained. In the end, it was decided to leave the issue open and it could be discussed in future meetings if the Commission decides that an action like this is necessary.

**TRAGSA January 2018:** The US asks the EU why the figures of sampling average weight do not match the average weight calculated by the system for total catch. Spain explains that sampling average weight can be less or equal to the one obtained by the system depending on the product presentation of BFT sampled. The issue is left “Open” as the TWG considered further discussion necessary.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** The issue was not discussed in the WG, however the US for it to remain “Open” to be further discussed in upcoming meetings.

## 2.5. *Issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending*

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections</b>	Include the "plausible" transformations of declared products between different sections	Pending receipt of plausible transformations
<b>When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch</b>	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Open
<b>Transport area within TD section to be mandatory and include dates of departure and arrival</b>	Adding the dates for departure and arrival in the transport area within a TD in order to have this information available in the system	Open
<b>Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO</b>	Fish regrouping in intra-farm transfers, in a new cage by assigning this operation a new eBCD with its own code	Open
<b>Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD</b>	Display in the print eBCD version weight and number of fish data both from the eBCD and from the stereoscopic cameras result when included	Open
<b>Mortality during towing voyage</b>	Reflect mortality during towing vessel in chronological order	Open

### 2.5.1. *Issues specific to the w-BFT fishery/WG members*

The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to include only ***the "plausible" transformations of declared products between different sections***. This also applies to the transshipment section in the E-BFT. (i.e., "gutted and gilled" cannot be followed by "whole"). Any modification will be considered a new development under flexibility allotment.

Tragsa is now working on including BFTRC in these cross-checks. When re-exporting parts of a batch of BCDs, the system will consider all the plausible options included in the whole batch. This is the only valid solution as when using batches in BFTRCs, the BFT re-exported is not assigned to a specific BCD.

**USA March 2019:** The US recalls that the Group needs to send the plausible transformations to Tragsa.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** This functionality was requested in June 2018 after its cost-estimation. In the product presentation drop-down menu, the system will only display the plausible options compatible with the products selected in the previous section. Tragsa is waiting to receive from the Group the list of plausible transformations, but the functionality was uploaded to the system in December 2018.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** Which would be the plausible transformations as discussed. It was decided that a document will be prepared and shared among the CPC WG participants in order to agree on these transformations.

2.52. *When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch (05/07/2016).*

In March 2017, the possibility of **Showing alerts only in concerned branches** was discussed. Tragsa informs that how to prevent an alert being displayed in all the branches of a BCD can be studied. However, it is impossible to detect in which specific section the error occurred. Consequently, the alert needs to be displayed at least in all branches added from the section that triggers the traceability alert. The alert is also shown in the section that triggers the alert, i.e. *if we have a harvest of 300 kg, and afterwards two trade sections adding up to 301 kgs are added to that harvest, the traceability alert is displayed in the harvest and in both trade sections. The system cannot know which trade section is wrong. Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by the ICCAT Secretariat.*

**TRAGSA March 2019:** The issue was not discussed, and its cost estimation has never been requested.

**TRAGSA September 2019:** Tragsa explains again that if a trade has an alert, the alert will be displayed in all the trades (branches) of that BCD. Importers will find the message but they will not be able to detect that the problem is in a different trade operation. The Group must decide if this development is necessary or not.

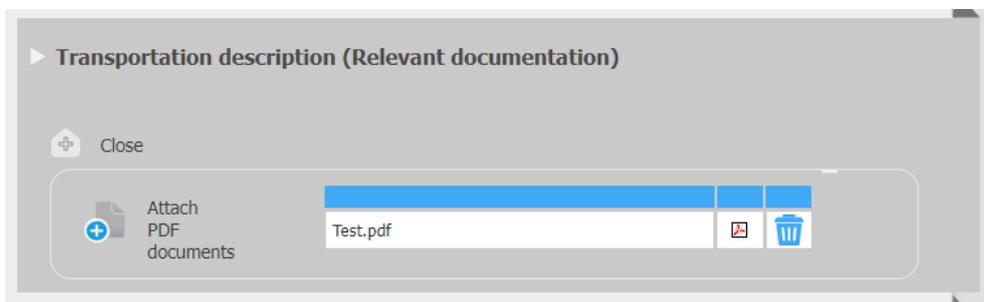
**TRAGSA June 2021:** Tragsa explains that since an update was uploaded in 2018 related to Frozen and Fresh products, it was not possible to record a trade (TD) section with more kilos than those available in that section. Therefore, the inconsistencies in traceability in TD (the ones discussed in the previous WG) did not now appear. Regardless, traceability inconsistencies in other sections will remain displayed because it is the way in which the system alerts the users of these errors in order to be corrected. *Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.*

2.53. *Transport area within td section to be mandatory and include dates of departure and arrival*

Paper copies of the eBCD are used during transportation and in marketplaces with the risk that the same eBCD is duplicated. The EU proposes to consider whether to use, on a mandatory basis, the section for transport means in the trade section of the eBCD to add information on the means of transport used as well as to consider adding the dates for departure and arrival. The aim would be to discuss the possibility to access the eBCD system on the basis of further explanations from the EU about the scope of the enlarged access proposed.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** Discussions on the obligation to include the transport document were held, in addition to the possibility of including the date of departure and arrival, or the type of transportation in the trade section within the area of transportation. Tragsa was requested to assess the viability of this obligation and the inclusion of new fields in this area of the TD section.

**NOTE:** The area in the TD section in the eBCD system for including the transport document, is as follows:



In this area, it is possible to include the fields the WG considers necessary (i.e. date of departure and arrival, type of transportation, etc.). Tragsa has a list of specific doubts regarding this issue in case it is decided to include these fields in the "Transportation description" area:

Which would be the fields that need to be included?

What would be the profile type in charge of filling in this information?

Would these fields be editable in the following cases? TD exempt/TD validated/TD signed by the importer. If the fields were editable, which would be the profile type able to modify them?

If the fields were editable and the TD was validated, would the changes need to be audited? Would these fields need to be included in the print version?

#### *2.5.4. Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO*

Panel 2 (Paragraph 100 of Rec. 19-04) requested the Working Group to study the consideration of regrouping of fish, in intra-farm transfers, in a new cage by assigning this operation a new eBCD with its own code. All this grouping would be within the same flag origin/same JFO. An eventual amendment to para 6 of Rec. 18-13 would be needed by adding a new one: para 6bis.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** Discussions were held on the regrouping of fish and assignment of a new code, however, seeing the complexity of the issue it was decided to leave it for further discussion in future WG meetings.

#### *2.5.5. Inclusion of stereoscopic cameras results in the caging section of the printed eBCD*

On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 and Annex 3 of Rec. 18-13, Morocco presented a proposal to include the weight and number of fish results from the stereoscopic camera control in the caging section of the printed eBCD.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** It was explained that once the stereoscopic cameras fields in the caging sections are filled in, the data validated by the system are those ones. Therefore, once these fields are completed the data shown in the print BCD are the ones from the stereoscopic cameras excluding the data first included in the caging section.

#### *2.5.6. Mortality during towing voyage*

Some flags have highlighted the difficulties in declaring mortality during the towing voyage. There is a procedure in order to declare this, but some Flags explain that this mortality should be reflected in chronological order and not in the caging section. It has been observed that the transfer section is used in some eBCDs to declare this mortality that occurred during the towing voyage. The transfer section does not keep the records of changes made and it does not need validation. Therefore, if declaration of fish is made in the transfer section instead of the caging section, tracking traceability and problems that may arise becomes complicated to solve.

**TRAGSA June 2021:** Discussion over the possibility of the system in order to declare the BFT mortality in chronological order was held. It was asked to Tragsa to see this viability and propose how this could be done in the system.

### **3. New issues**

Some highlighted issues that have arisen through incidents this year have been included in this chapter. If it is deemed proper, these issues might be considered for further discussion.

#### **3.1. Asynchronous Reports**

The eBCD Support Team has received several incidents from different administrators' profile users, due to the difficulty they encountered in obtaining the "Flag's Raw Data" and the "eBCD's Raw Data" reports. Because of the large amount of data that the system has for those flags, even for several months' time slots, the timeout error occurs due to the time the system needs to extract the query in the database, as this is lengthy. For this reason, the users cannot download the report (for example: EU\_ESP from 1 January to 31 December 2021). The system does allow obtaining the same report in shorter time slots, i.e. by semesters or quarters, dividing the request the user needs in different months (for example in the case before, from January 1 to June 30, and another report from July 1 to December 31). Therefore, the different reports would have the same information, but this is obtained in different files.

The proposal to ease the achievement of this report is to do this procedure in an asynchronous manner. Therefore, the user will make the request and once it is generated, the report will be displayed on another page in the eBCD system, created for this purpose.

*Cost estimation and requirements were sent on March 31.*

### **Questions for consideration to develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS**

These users will have permissions to access any eBCD under inspection.

#### **Tragsa March 2019**

At the eBCD TWG meeting it is discussed how access of international inspectors to BCDs could be managed in the system. Tragsa informs that a list of inspectors will be necessary and that someone should establish periods of authorizations to give them access to all BCDs generated in that period of time. Another option could be to give permissions over certain vessels within a certain period of time, so that they could check all BCDs recorded for that vessel at that time. Constraints on this option will be that someone should maintain the observers list and give permissions to the international inspectors. Finally, it was decided that this should be addressed by the IMM.

#### **Tragsa September 2019**

This functionality has not been cost estimated yet as some doubts have not been solved. The list of doubts sent by Tragsa and answers provided are:

1. Who would create and maintain these users in the system? ANSWER: The Secretariat would provide a list, or enter them similar to the ROPs.
2. Should all these users have access to all BCDs in the system or only to those from vessels inspected? ANSWER: All relevant ones (i.e. catches and live trades for that year and hence "en route" (e.g. not harvests) – is this possible?
3. Would these users have an "activity period", so they would only have access to the documents during that period? ANSWER: Perhaps the period they are designated as inspectors.

Tragsa gives some option to limit the access of these inspectors only to BCDs inspected or vessels inspected. Finally, the Group decides that the following three options will be considered:

1. The operator will give temporary access to the inspector by sharing his account with them.
2. The inspector will not have access to the system. Nevertheless, the operator provides a copy of the document to the inspector.
3. The inspector will have access to the system and will search inspected BCDs using a functionality that will let them search the BCDs from a vessel searched.

Tragsa will not be able to advance with the cost-estimation until the Group communicates to the development team how the system should work.

#### **Tragsa June 2021**

The different approaches to this profile were discussed in depth. Important points for the Group were that the inspector has a permit to do their inspection only when it is needed, and, moreover, that the CPC administrator were notified when the entity is going to have an inspection. Tragsa presented a first draft of how these features could be combined in a profile in order to have a first approach. Further discussion needed for deciding how this profile should work within the eBCD system.

#### **Tragsa April 2022**

It was decided to keep this issue open for more discussion, however, it is considered important to achieve this shortly. It was deferred to the IMM as a priority and to continue the discussion in the following meeting of the eBCD TWG.