

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR AN
ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) SYSTEM**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) programme;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

NOTING the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to implement the eBCD programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

CONSIDERING the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-11 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)* [Rec. 11-21] to seek “full implementation of the eBCD system before the 2013 purse seine season,” and recognizing that “a level of flexibility will be maintained based on the results of the pilot phase,”

RECOGNIZING the progress in the on-going development of the eBCD system, but noting that the eBCD system could not be fully tested during 2013, including during the 2013 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin purse seine season;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

COMMITTED to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Prior to 1 March 2015 both eBCDs and paper BCDs issued pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 11-20] shall continue to be accepted. By 16 May 2014, CPCs should notify the Secretariat of whether they intend to use the electronic system or paper BCDs during this period. Validated paper BCDs submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat.
2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for full eBCD system implementation referenced in paragraph 1, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide the necessary data as defined by the ICCAT Secretariat and endorsed by the eBCD Technical Working Group.
3. The Secretariat, with assistance from the eBCD Technical Working Group, will coordinate with the developing consortium to develop and distribute to CPCs a comprehensive technical manual and training plan before 1 March 2014.

4. During the year, CPCs shall communicate to the Secretariat and the Working Group their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation and report those experiences at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
5. The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than 1 March 2015, unless the Commission determines otherwise based on demonstration of significant problems with the design or functionality of the system.
6. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs. The Permanent Working Group assisted by the eBCD Technical Working Group will consider whether a comprehensive eBCD program recommendation is necessary and, if so, will submit that recommendation and the related technical manual to the Commission for its consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
7. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendations 11-21 and 12-08.